

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the claims. More specifically, Applicants believe that the Examiner may have misread independent claim 25, and furthermore, Applicants believe that the Group I and Group II claims should justifiably be combined into a single group for Examination.

Claim 1 recites a method for screening a compound library, where the method comprises contacting a plurality of biological samples (e.g., cultured cells) with compounds from the library, quantitating expressed RNA in the samples, then detecting changes in expressed RNA in the biological samples.

The Examiner states that claim 25 recites a method for making expression products. Applicants disagree. Independent claim 25 recites a method for quantitating a plurality of expression products from a plurality of biological samples. The claim does not recite any steps for making expression products (the expressed RNA).

The Group I and Group II claims share the same technical features and have shared steps, including:

- (a) providing expressed RNA from biological samples;
- (b) providing a nucleic acid array corresponding to the expressed RNA samples;
- (c) hybridizing a plurality of defined sequence probes to the nucleic acid array, where the probes are each capable of generating a different detectable signal; and,
- (d) detecting the hybridizing probes on the array.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, namely the common features and steps between the claims of Group I and Group II, Applicants believe that it is appropriate to combine the claims in those two groups into a single group for examination (a group consisting of claim 1-50). Applicants respectfully request that the claims of Group I and Group II (i.e., claims 1-50) be combined, and hereby elect the new group consisting of claims 1-50 for examination.

If the Examiner should not find the arguments above to be persuasive, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I for prosecution, with traverse.

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Attachments:

- 1) A petition to extend the period of response for one (1) month;
- 2) A transmittal sheet;
- 3) A fee transmittal sheet; and,
- 4) A receipt indication postcard.